

Appl. No. 10/764,002
Reply Filed with RCE on January 19, 2006

1. Listing of the Claims:

1. Cancelled.
2. Cancelled.
3. Cancelled.
4. Cancelled.

5 (Currently Amended). A system for facilitating the sale of an item, comprising:

one or more inlets that receive a plurality of items to be sold on a consignment basis for a seller;

a computer-based hub that is connected to each inlet wherein the computer-based hub manages the consignment sale of the plurality of items from the inlets without seller involvement; and

the computer-based hub further comprising:

having one or more processing stations that generate data about each item wherein the data includes evaluation data about the item and a photograph of the item,

a listing station that generates a listing for each item based on the evaluation data and the photograph wherein the listing includes sales criteria so that each item is listed using the listing in an existing marketplace for the sales of the item, and

a marketplace interface that coordinates the sale of the item at the existing marketplace without seller involvement including means for receiving an identity of a buyer from the existing marketplace, means for receiving a payment from the buyer of a sold item, means for shipping the sold item to the buyer and means for sending a portion of the payment from the buyer to the seller to complete the consignment sale.

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- 6 (New). The system of Claim 5, wherein each inlet ships the item to the hub.
- 7 (New). The system of Claim 5, wherein the one or more inlets are geographically dispersed from each other.
- 8 (New). The system of Claim 7, wherein the hub is geographically dispersed from at least one inlet.
- 9 (New). The system of Claim 5, wherein each processing station further comprises a photography station for taking the photograph of the item and a testing station for generating the evaluation data for the item.
- 10 (New). The system of Claim 6 further comprising a storage area wherein the items shipped from the inlets are stored in the storage area.
- 11 (New). The system of Claim 5, wherein the hub further comprises a database and wherein each processing station stores the evaluation data and photograph for each item in the database.
- 12 (New). The system of Claim 5 further comprising an information transport layer that connects the hub to the existing marketplace wherein the listing is communications over the communications network.
- 13 (New). The system of Claim 12, wherein the information transport layer further comprises a computer network.
- 14 (New). The system of Claim 5, wherein the listing station further comprises a listing software module and wherein the marketplace interface further comprises a sales software module.
- 15 (New). The system of Claim 5, wherein each inlet further comprises a computer system to generate data about the item received at the inlet station wherein the generated data is communicated to the hub.

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16 (New). The system of Claim 5, wherein the computer system in each inlet further comprises a registration station at which an item is one of accepted and rejected for sale.

17 (Currently Amended). The system of Claim 16, wherein the registration station further comprises an acceptance module that determines the acceptance of the item to be sold and an agreement generation module that generates ~~an~~ a consignment agreement for the seller to sign once the item has been accepted by the acceptance module.

18 (Currently Amended). A computer-implemented method for facilitating the sale of an item at an existing marketplace using one or more inlets and a hub connected to the inlets by a communications link, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of items to be sold on a consignment basis for a seller at one or more inlets;

generating data about each item at a hub wherein the data includes evaluation data about the item and a photograph of the item;

generating a listing for each item at the hub based on the evaluation data and the photograph wherein the listing includes sales criteria;

listing each item using the listing in an existing marketplace for the sale of the item; and

coordinating the consignment sale of the item for the seller at the existing marketplace wherein coordinating the consignment sale further comprises receiving an identity of a buyer, receiving a payment from the buyer of a sold item, shipping the sold item to the buyer and sending a portion of the payment from the buyer to the seller.

19. Cancelled.

20 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim ~~18~~ 19 further comprising shipping each item from the inlet to the hub.

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21 (New). The method of Claim 20 further comprising storing, at the hub, the items shipped from the inlets to the hub.

22 (New). The method of Claim 18 further comprising storing the data for each item in a database.

23 (New). The method of Claim 18, wherein listing each item further comprising communicating the listing to the existing marketplace over a communications network.

24 (New). The method of Claim 18, wherein receiving the plurality of items further comprises determining the acceptance of an item to be sold and executing an agreement by the seller once the item is accepted for sale.